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SUBJECT: Goma situation report for December 22, 2007

Note: The following report was provided by Embassy Kinshasa's political officer in Goma. End note.

¶1. (SBU) Embassy acting Goma rep spent most of first day in meetings on the upcoming Kivus Conference. Information below is preliminary and subject to change.

#### Initial Notes

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-- The location of the conference is the Free University of the Great Lakes (Universite Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs (ULPGL)).

-- The stated global objectives of the conference are to: (a) put an end to the war and insecurity in the provinces of North and South Kivu, and (b) create the basis for a durable peace and the development of North and South Kivu.

-- Conference planners have published a 25-page document which outlines fifteen specific objectives, fifteen expected results, and four themes: (a) Peace, (b) Security, (c) Human and Social Issues, and (d) Development.

-- Page six of the document provides an organizational chart detailing where all the various actors fit in the conference. Notably, the two Kivus will conduct their own workshops on each of the four themes listed above.

-- The remainder of the document is a 19-page section with 63 articles, including the composition of participants, Members, Observers, and Experts; a statement that all conferees are asked to sign declaring their sincerity and desire for unity; the standing Rules of Order; and Immunity of conferees from prosecution for "opinions or votes" given during the course of the conference, as well as the temporary suspension of judicial proceedings against conferees ("Les poursuites judiciaires eventuelles a l'encontre sont suspendues pendant toute la duree des travaux de la Conference").

#### Conference Calendar

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¶2. (SBU) A new schedule has been elaborated. The following is an outline:

- 15-19 December: Preliminary work
- 20 December: Convocation
- 21-26 December: Preparatory work
- 27 December: Opening Session of PrepCom
- 28-31 December: Awareness building ("sensitization") and Designation of Participants; Finalization of Technical Dossier
- 1 January: Holiday

-- 2-3 January: "Sensitization" and Designation of  
Participants; Finalization of Technical Dossier  
-- 4-5 January: Arrival of Participants  
-- 6 January Arrival of Officials  
-- 7 January Opening of Plenary Session  
-- 8-10 January: Provincial Workshops  
-- 11 January: Thematic Workshops  
-- 12 January: Plenary Session, Adoption of Final Report  
-- 13 January: Final Report  
-- 14 January: Closing Session

#### Notes on Logistics

13. (SBU) All 384 hotel rooms in Goma are already booked for the duration of the conference. The Ihusi hotel has no vacancies until after the 14th of January. The remainder of the conferees and support staff are on their own to find lodging. The Opening Session for the Preparation of the Conference at the Ihusi hotel conference room had nearly 500 people in attendance. Of these, only five were apparently non-Congolese, probably from the press corps. It is likely that many people will be unable to secure hotel accommodations during the conference.

14. (SBU) One Logistics specialist noted that in Western nations, this type of conference typically takes six months to plan and execute. The UN plans to provide limited logistical support. MONUC will provide expertise in and reference materials for the Peace and Security workshops, while UNDP will provide the same for the Development workshops, and OCHA will support the Humanitarian Issues sessions. Outside of technical advice, MONUC has committed only to provide security (via the Police and MONUC North Kivu Brigade), 200 mattresses, one generator, and five large tents to shelter the

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conference dining area. The University has a large Auditorium and ten large rooms suitable for the workshops. The University has 26 toilets and MONUC has offered five chemical toilets to augment this number with 30 more on standby.

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